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O 061701Z MAY 09 ZDK NUMEROUS REQUESTS  
FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5932  
INFO RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS PRIORITY 1254  
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0252  
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 1858  
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 0807  
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE  
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE  
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABUJA 000792

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/W, INR/AA  
BAGHDAD FOR DMCCULLOUGH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/06/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: EKITI ELECTION UPDATE: MASS PROTESTS  
AFTER INEC DECLARES PDP VICTORY

REF: A. LAGOS 213  
[1](#)B. LAGOS 211  
[1](#)C. LAGOS 193  
[1](#)D. LAGOS 163  
[1](#)E. LAGOS 112

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Classified By: Political Counselor Walter N.S. Pflaumer for reasons 1.4  
(b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: On May 5, concluding the disputed gubernatorial by-election between Segun Oni (PDP - Peoples' Democratic Party) and Kayode Fayemi (AC - Action Congress), the state representative for the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) declared the PDP winner. This followed polling in the two final wards where violence shut down the polls on April 25. On May 6, in response to INEC's acceptance of the suspicious results from Ido-Osi Local Government Area (LGA), Mission contacts report that AC supporters protested en masse throughout Ado-Ekiti, the state capital, and protesters and police clashed, with police firing weapons into the air and using tear gas to disperse the crowd. End Summary.

PDP Declared Winner

[1](#)2. (C) On May 5, after the tally was completed for the final two wards of Oye Local Government Area (LGA), INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) Ayoka Adebayo proclaimed PDP candidate Segun Oni as the winner of the gubernatorial rerun in Ekiti State. Adebayo announced that INEC had accepted the tally of Ido-Osi LGA, despite reports that she had canceled the results on April 26 because they lacked the required signatures and were suspected to have been rigged by the PDP (Ref A). (Note: In Ido-Osi, the PDP purportedly had 15,939 votes, while the AC had 3,793. The total voter turnout of 19,732 in that LGA exceeded the combined turnout of four other LGAs. In comparison, only 2,070 voters turned up for the highly-publicized Oye LGA by-election on May 5. End Note.) Media reported that upon hearing that INEC was accepting these results, AC supporters accused the PDP vote rigging and shouted protests at Adebayo and PDP supporters as the collation center descended into chaos.

Mass Protests in Ado-Ekiti

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13. (C) On May 6, Abiodun Oyeleye, a civil society activist in Ado-Ekiti, and Akin Oyedele of Punch Newspapers, told Poloff that mass protests had broken out in the state capital city of Ado-Ekiti. They reported that AC supporters filled the streets and engaged in violent confrontations with police. The police reportedly fired into the air and used tear gas to disband the protesters. Markets, schools, and businesses have closed, and only police and protesters remain in the streets. AC candidate Fayemi reportedly addressed the young AC protesters and encouraged them to remain calm, reaffirming that the AC would appeal through the courts rather than the streets.

14. (C) On May 5 while monitoring the Oye LGA polling stations, monitors told Poloff that there was a heavy military presence on all roads entering the LGA. Moshud Erubami, an accredited election monitor, said that he saw tanks on roads outside of Ado-Ekiti. Witnessing a strong military presence, monitors suspected that PDP would be declared winner and the Federal Government was bracing for the reaction.

15. (C) Comment: Adebayo's acceptance of Ido-Osi's suspiciously high tally for the PDP coupled with her peculiar resignation, meeting with INEC leaders, and subsequent "un-resignation" within the span of three days last week raises questions about her impartiality. This perception is fueling the protests in Ekiti, which are likely to continue while the AC prepares to go to court, again, over the disputed results. End Comment.

16. (U) This cable was drafted by Consulate Lagos and

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coordinated with Embassy Abuja, and is being sent out from Abuja on Lagos's behalf.  
SANDERS